

THE PENTAGON RUNS A SCHOOL IN FORT BENNING, GEORGIA WHICH HAS TRAINED, AMONG OTHERS, AN ORGANIZER OF SALVADORAN DEATH SQUADS, THE HEAD OF AN ARGENTINE JUNTA, AND MANUEL NORIEGA...

GOOD MORNING, CLASS! TODAY WE'LL BE STUDYING ADVANCED INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES:

CAN YOU SAY "CATTLE PROD?"



ANOTHER GRADUATE IS COL. JULIO ALPAREZ, THE GUATEMALAN OFFICER ON THE CIA PATROLL WHO MURDERED AN AMERICAN HOTELIER AND A REBEL LEADER MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN... WHEN COL. ALPAREZ'S EXPLOITS WERE REVEALED BY HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER ROBERT TORICELLI, NEWT GINGRICH RESPONDED SWIFTLY.

...DEMANDING THE PUNISHMENT OF TORICELLI.



IT'S AN OUTRAGE--

...THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS MADE PUBLIC, I MEAN!

NOW THAT THE CAT IS OUT OF THE BAG, A PREDICTABLE SCENARIO WILL UNFOLD... HEARINGS WILL BE HELD... SHOCK WILL BE PROFESSIONED... AND FINALLY, THE CIA WILL LOUDLY AND PUBLICLY DECLARE THE ENTIRE MATTER A DREADFUL ABERRATION WHICH WAS ENTIRELY THE FAULT OF A CONVENIENT, TO-BE-DETERMINED SCAPEGOAT.

UH-- YOU SEE-- ALBRICH AMES DID IT!



YEAH! THAT'S THE TICKET! THAT SCOUNDREL!

THE MEDIA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY COOPERATE EAGERLY WITH THIS RITUAL OF ABSOLUTION... DOING THEIR BEST TO IGNORE OUR COUNTRY'S ONGOING COMPLICITY IN THE DEATHS OF SOME 110,000 GUATEMALANS AT THE HANDS OF SUCCESSIVE U.S.-BACKED DICTATORSHIPS OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS...

--AND IF YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THAT-- WELL, AT THE RISK OF REPEATING OURSELVES--



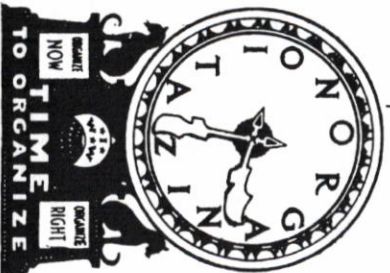
...SENT IT SAID THAT YOU HAD TO LEARN ABOUT IT FROM A TALKING PENGUIN IN A COMIC STRIP?

The Enola Gay Action Coalition has produced a great exhibit showing the real legacy of nuclear weapons and the effects of the US atomic bombings in Japan. (The Enola Gay was the plane that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima.) This display can be easily set up indoors or outdoors, at punk shows or parks, art galleries or schools, etc. You can hold a benefit to pay for it--the Coalition is asking a contribution of \$50 (or more if possible) to cover printing and shipping costs. For more information, write the Coalition at 339 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10012 or call 212-228-0450.



From: Jane G.
80-50 Baxter Ave #125
Elmhurst, NY 11373

TO:



"Wasting" People with Depleted Uranium "the Agent Orange of the '90s"

By John M. LaForge

A certain nuclear war was waged by the United States against Iraq and Kuwait in 1991. According to the British Atomic Energy Authority 40 tons of "depleted uranium," (DU) munitions were exploded and burned in the Persian Gulf during the 40-day bombardment known now as the Gulf War. Based on its 40-ton estimate, the British AEA concluded that 500,000 eventual deaths could be part of the long term aftermath of the war. However, *Z Magazine* reports that the current estimate is that 300 tons of DU was dispersed.

DU is uranium-238, a dense radioactive material left over from the uranium enrichment process. Twice as dense as lead, it weighs 152 pounds per gallon, compared to eight pounds for water. The DU is alloyed with extremely hard titanium and used by the U.S. military to make armor-piercing ammunition and armor plating on tanks.

U-238 is nuclear waste now left in vast quantities. When uranium ore is processed, the fissionable U-235 is separated from the U-238. Only one pound of the bomb-or fuel-grade U-235 is extracted from one ton of uranium ore. What's left is 1,999 pounds of DU. There are about one billion pounds of this type of nuclear waste in tens of thousands of drums at U.S. plants where uranium has been "enriched" for war-heads and reactor fuel.

As of 1991, DU is defined by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as a "resource material" rather than nuclear waste. This reclassification—from waste to resource—allows the DOE and the NRC to abandon their oversight responsibilities regarding this radioactive material. At the Pentagon, DU munitions are considered "conventional" weapons.

"We're basically dumping our nuclear waste around battlefields of the world," said Dr. Eric Hoskins, a leader of the Harvard Study Team's survey of health in post-bombardment Iraq. James Ridgeway, writing in *Village Voice* magazine said this is "an ingenious solution to the nuclear industry's paralyzing problem of what to do with nuclear wastes."

When the DU munitions smash into tanks or other objects, they partially burn, producing uranium oxide dust which is chemically toxic and radioactive. The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) reported in Jan. 1993, that the Army failed to warn US. soldiers of the hazards of uranium dust. Pentagon spin doctors said then that the DU's radioactivity is "low-level,"

and so provided no special training to soldiers who handled the material.

When these uranium weapons burn, or corrode, or are machined, the resulting uranium oxide dust can be ingested or inhaled, and small particles, those less than five millionths of a meter, can lodge in lung tissue, exposing the host to a growing dose of alpha radiation. This can cause lung cancer in people of all ages, and it is particularly hazardous to children. The tons of DU left on Iraqi soil is passing into the water supply and into the food chain.

Dr. Hoskins reported that Iraqi doctors told him of children developing un-explained diseases, and he suggested that they are linked to uranium contamination. "The air-borne particles enter the body easily," Hoskins wrote in the *New York Times*. "The uranium then deposits itself in bones, organs and cells. Children are especially vulnerable because their cells divide rapidly as they grow."

Since cancers have a long latency period, veterans of the invasion of Iraq, people of the Persian Gulf region, and those near DU manufacturing and testing facilities in the U.S., are at risk for health problems that may not show up for many years. The experience of veterans exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War shows that records need to be kept regarding all troops and civilian populations exposed to DU.

The thousands of veterans now reporting symptoms of a "Gulf War Syndrome" complain of ailments known to be associated with exposure to low-level radioactivity: chronic fatigue, sore muscles and joints, stomach and bowel disruptions, severe headaches, tumors, rashes, hair loss, and neurological disorders, among others. The *Milwaukee Journal*, in a 6 June 1994 follow-up to its Jan. 1993 scoop of the GAO report, noted that one possible cause of the "syndrome" is "radioactivity from U.S. armor-piercing shells tipped with uranium."

The lesson of nuclear warfare has been foisted upon the world again: the indiscriminate effects of nuclear weapons recoil to kill those who unleash them.

Sources: *Village Voice*, January 15, 1991; *Milwaukee Journal*: January 27, 1993; June 13, 1993; June 6, 10, & 24, 1994; *Z Magazine*, July-August 1994; and *Uranium Battlefields Home & Abroad: Depleted Uranium Use by the U.S. Department of Defense*, Bukowski, Lopez and McGehee, 165 pp., Pub. by Citizen Alert, Reno, NV, & Rural Alliance for Military Accountability, Carson City, NV; March 1993.

Make Your Voice Heard

President Clinton has proposed the 1998 budget for the United States. The figures on the other side of this flyer show how the President wants to spend this money. Congress takes this proposal and makes final budget decisions, usually completing the process by October.

The proposed budget does show increased monies to health and human services programs, BUT, the chart below shows what Congress did last year: they added \$10.4 billion to an already bloated military budget and cut other essential services!

True national security—creating a healthy, educated, employed society—is being sacrificed by maintaining a huge, unnecessary military. Act now—and continue to act—to change the priorities of our government. See “What you can do” below, or contact the group circulating this flyer in your community.

In 1996 Congress made these changes to the proposed budget:

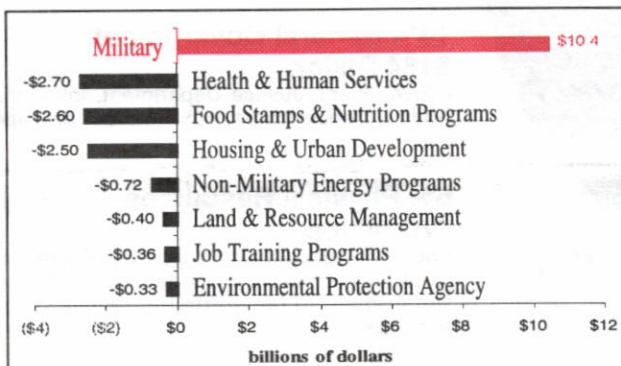
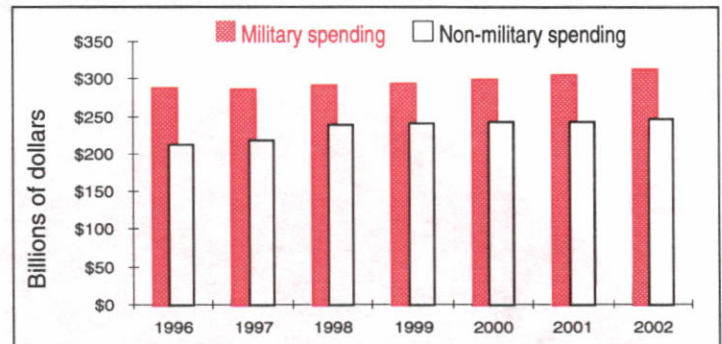


Chart above created by Campaign for New Priorities, Washington, DC, <http://www.newpriorities.org>

The Military Continues to Grow



Military bar above includes military portion of the Dept. of Defense, nuclear weapons from the Dept. of Energy, Veterans affairs, and international security spending from Funds Appropriated to the President.

The chart above shows projected spending on budget items that Congress must decide on each year (discretionary spending). If Congress and the President were really serious about balancing the budget, they would cut military spending instead of allowing it to steadily rise.

A DAY WITHOUT THE PENTAGON

In an effort to break our country's addiction to the military and free up money for human needs, we have initiated a two-year campaign called *A Day Without the Pentagon*. In the first year, we have declared **October 24, 1997** as A Day Without the Pentagon when communities across the country will demonstrate that they can get along without the “protection” and the budget-busting expense of the military. Educational and action-oriented resources are available from the War Resisters League.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ Write the President, your representatives, and senators and demand that the military budget be cut. Organize a unified call to cut the military and save human needs programs. Contact one of the organizations below to become involved.
- ◆ Refuse to pay the 3% federal excise tax on your phone bills. This tax has been used symbolically as a war tax since World War I. Nonpayment of the federal tax is between you and the IRS and should not result in cut-off of phone service. Though illegal, nonpayment of the tax is almost risk-free. The thousands of people now refusing this tax have made it virtually uncollectible. Please contact us for more details.
- ◆ Refuse to pay all or part of your income tax. Though illegal, thousands of Americans are openly participating in this form of protest. You can take control of your paycheck and avoid contributing to the military. Contact us for information or referral to a war tax resistance counselor near you.
- ◆ Contribute resisted tax money to an organization working to help people (e.g., day care centers, health clinics, food banks, housing programs, international

human rights organizations) or to an alternative fund which pools tax money from resisters and gives grants to human needs and peace groups.

- ◆ Demonstrate and leaflet on April 15 at the IRS or a post office where returns are mailed at the last minute.
- ◆ Develop a community of support for those doing or contemplating war tax resistance. Resistance is strengthened if people can remove the sense of isolation and talk about their fears about resistance. Contact us for groups in your area.
- ◆ Write for more information to the addresses below or contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, PO Box 774, Monroe, ME 04951 (800)269-7464; email: nwtrcc@igc.apc.org.

RESOURCES

- ◆ Additional copies of this flyer are available for .10 each (1-199), 7¢ each (200 or more), 6¢ each (500 plus) plus 20% postage.
- ◆ “Your Telephone Taxes Pay for War,” explanatory brochures. Single copies 50¢. \$10/100. Cards to

enclose with phone bills, 12 for \$1.00.

- ◆ “Our Tax Money, Our Choice: A Call to War Tax Resistance,” basic brochure on how's and why's of war tax resistance. 50¢ each. \$10/100.
- ◆ *War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military*, 130-page handbook on all aspects of war tax resistance, available for \$12 plus \$1.25 postage.

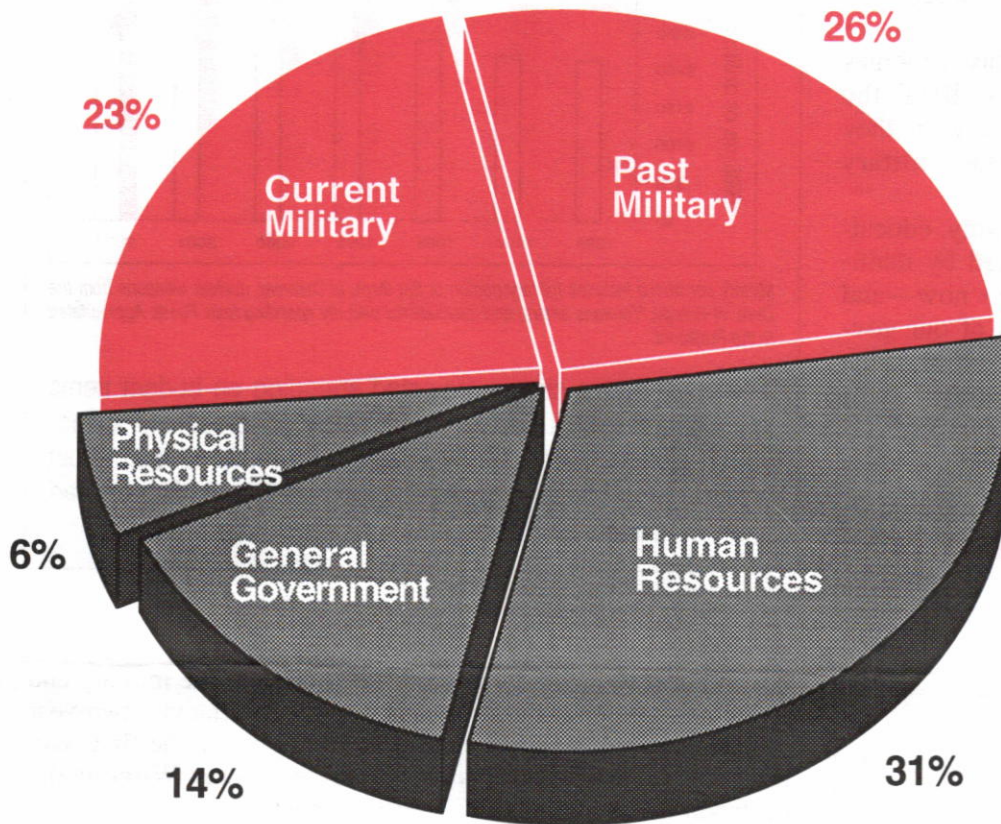
Local Address:

War Resisters League

339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012
(212) 228-0450
Fax: (212) 228-6193
email: wrl@igc.apc.org
web: <http://www.nonviolence.org/wrl>

WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

The United States Federal Budget for Fiscal Year 1998



23% Current Military \$293 Billion

(Military Personnel \$69B, Retired Pay \$16B, Operation and Maintenance \$92B, Family Housing \$4B, Procurement \$43B, Research and Development \$35B, Construction \$6B, DoE Nuclear Weapons \$11B, 50% NASA \$7B, Coast Guard \$4B, plus CIA \$0.2B, International Security Assistance, \$6B)

26% Past Military \$334 Billion

Veterans Benefits \$41B
Interest on National Debt (80% estimated to be created by military spending) \$293B

31% Human Resources \$399 Billion

(Education, Health and Human Services, HUD housing subsidies, Food Stamps, Labor Department)

14% General Government \$184 Billion

(Government, Justice Department, International Affairs, Peace Corps, 20% interest on national debt, civilian portion of NASA)

6% Physical Resources \$70 Billion

(Includes Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, HUD administration/community development, Interior Department, Transportation, Environmental Protection)

100% Total Federal Funds \$1.28 Trillion

How These Figures Were Determined

War Resisters League creates these flyers each year after the President has presented the budget. Our figures are from a line by line analysis in the *Analytical Perspectives* book of the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1998*.

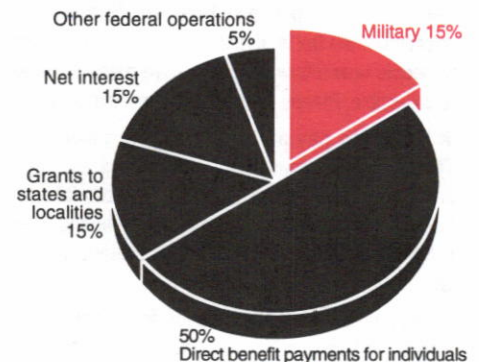
The percentages are Federal Funds, calculated after removing Trust Funds (such as Social Security), which are raised and spent separately from income taxes. What you pay (or don't pay) on April 15 goes only to the Federal Funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining Trust and Federal Funds (the so-called "Unified Budget") began in the 1960's during the Vietnam War. The government presentation makes the human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

"Current military" spending adds together money allocated for the Department of Defense (\$249 billion) plus the "defense" portion from other parts of the budget. Spending on nuclear weapons (without their delivery systems) amounts to about 1% of the total budget.

"Past military" is represented by veterans' benefits plus 80% of the interest on the national debt. Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups use from 50% to 60%. We use the 80% figure because we believe if there had been no military spending most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated. The government has always found money for war; explosive military spending in the 1980's dramatically increased the debt.

The Government Deception

The pie chart below is the Administration's view of the budget taken directly from the newspaper. This is a distortion of how our income tax dollars are spent because it includes Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security) and buries the expenses of past military spending in nonmilitary parts of the pie. For a more accurate representation of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent, see the large chart.



¿Qué hay de malo con la inmigración?

La mayoría de los ciudadanos de los EEUU tienen orígenes inmigrantes. Sin embargo, muchos de estos ciudadanos rápidamente le echan la culpa a aquellos que han llegado más recientemente de todo lo posible, desde el crimen, las drogas hasta del alto índice de desempleo. De hecho, los EEUU tiene un largo historial de utilizar a los inmigrantes como chivos expiatorios durante épocas duras, de la misma manera como los judíos fueron utilizados para justificar los problemas económicos en Alemania durante los años treinta. Este proceso llevó a muchos alemanes a participar en la massacre de millones de judíos—y llevó a muchos otros a aceptarla pasivamente.

El “problema” de la inmigración que enfrentamos es realmente el síntoma de un problema mas grande: el desbalance mundial de la distribución de la riqueza. Siglos de colonialismo y esclavitud han creado regiones donde la mayoría de las personas viven en condiciones de pobreza extrema. Corporaciones internacionales utilizan estas circunstancias de pobreza para rebajar los sueldos en el mercado mundial al forzar a diferentes países a competir por los mismos trabajos. Extrema represión política—habitualmente con apoyo abierto o secreto del gobierno de los EEUU—previene a trabajadores de muchos países de organizarse para obtener mejores salarios y condiciones de trabajo. Hasta que no encaremos estos problemas reales, la situación, sólo empeorará.

¿Por que vienen los inmigrantes aquí?

Para escapar de la violencia, reunirse con sus familias o buscar una mejor vida. Muchos preferirían quedarse en sus lugares de origen pero no pueden sobrevivir allí.

¿Es nuestra culpa que tengan este problema?

Frecuentemente las guerras y la desesperación económica de las que muchos tratan de escapar son creadas directa o indirectamente por nuestro propio gobierno y las políticas de las corporaciones internacionales e instituciones como el Banco Mundial y el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI). Si nosotros no actuamos activamente para oponernos a estas políticas, tenemos que compartir la culpa.

¿Por qué vienen tantos ilegalmente?

Todos los inmigrantes vendrían legalmente si pudieran. Las leyes migratorias racistas estadounidenses pone estrictos límites en el número de personas que pueden inmigrar legalmente de ciertos países—países cuya mayoría de la población son pobres y de color. Los EE.UU. hace imposible para alguien de estos países aún visitar... a menos que sean muy adinerados.

¿Podemos costear la entrada de mas gente?

¿Por qué no? Estadísticas muestran que la entrada de nuevos inmigrantes en realidad mejora la economía. La conservadora institución Alexis de Tocqueville encontró que los estados con las más altas poblaciones de inmigrantes tienen las más bajas tasas de desempleo. Además los costos de hacer cumplir nuestras estrictas leyes de inmigración—patrullando, deportando “ilegales” y procesando inmigrantes legales a través de un complejo sistema burocrático—es inmenso. Podemos cortar los costos y generar más ingresos, dejando entrar a todos y dando un número de seguro social a todos que quieran trabajar.

¿Pero acaso no nos cuestan dado que no pagan impuestos?

Estudios muestran que inmigrantes—ambos documentados e indocumentados—pagan \$70 a \$90 mil millones en impuestos cada año y utilizan menos de \$50 mil millones en servicios. En California los inmigrantes indocumentados contribuyen con \$30 mil millones en impuestos y usan solamente \$18,7 mil millones en servicios de acuerdo al Urban Institute de Washington. Muchos inmigrantes indocumentados pagan más en impuestos que lo que deben pagar debido a que temen reclamar sus reembolsos. Si todos los inmigrantes recibieran permisos para trabajar, tendrían los mismos derechos y beneficios como todos los demás, y pagarían impuestos como todos los demás.

¿Acaso no rebajan los niveles de los salarios?

Es cierto que muchas compañías prefieren emplear inmigrantes indocumentados porque son más fáciles de explotar, pero los inmigrantes indocumentados rebajan los niveles de salarios, no porque sean inmigrantes sino porque son indocumentados. Muchos no saben que las leyes laborales de los EEUU los protegen tanto como a cualquier otro trabajador—y temen que si reclaman serán deportados. Si se permitiera a todos los inmigrantes trabajar legalmente, y si todos los trabajadores estuvieran al tanto de sus derechos, sería más duro para los patrones rebajar los salarios y cortar las prestaciones.

¿Si abrimos las fronteras, nos llenaríamos de inmigrantes?

Tal vez, pero los países más acomodados de Europa tenían esto cuando la Unión Europea abrió las fronteras—y no ocurrió. Además si las fronteras se abrieran más personas regresarían a sus países de origen para estadías mas largas. Las personas se quedarían aquí cuanto quisieran. De la forma en que las cosas están ahora los indocumentados están atrapados aquí—si se van, resulta muy difícil regresar.

¿Que podemos hacer? Defender los derechos de los trabajadores inmigrantes en los EEUU. Protestar el apoyo gubernamental a la violencia y la represión que hacen las condiciones más duras—aún invivibles—en muchos países. Apoyar los esfuerzos de los sindicatos y movimientos populares para organizarse para buscar mejores salarios y condiciones de trabajo. Hablar de una política migratoria alternativa que trate a toda la gente con dignidad y respeto.

What's so wrong about immigration?

The vast majority of US citizens trace their origins to immigrants. Still, many of these citizens have been quick to blame the more recent arrivals for everything from crime to drugs to unemployment. In fact, the US has a long history of scapegoating immigrants during hard times, just as Jewish people were scapegoated for the economic problems of Germany in the 1930s. That scapegoating led many German people to take part in—and many others to passively accept—the murder of millions of Jewish people.

The immigration “problem” our country is facing now is really a symptom of a larger problem: the unbalanced global distribution of wealth. Centuries of colonialism and slavery have created regions where most of the people live in extreme poverty. Multinational corporations use this poverty to bring down wages globally by forcing countries to compete for jobs. Severe political repression—often backed openly or secretly by the US government—prevents workers in many countries from organizing for better wages and conditions. Until we address these very real problems, the situation will only get worse.

Why do immigrants come here?

To escape violence, to be able to feed their families, to reunite with family members living here, or simply to have a better life. Many would prefer to stay where they are, but just cannot survive there.

Is it our fault they have these problems?

Often the wars and economic desperation they are fleeing are created either directly or indirectly by our own government's policies, and by the policies of multinational corporations and institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. If we don't actively oppose these policies, we share the blame for them.

Why do so many come here illegally?

Virtually all immigrants would come here legally if they could. Racist US immigration laws put strict limits on the number of people who can emigrate from certain countries—countries whose people are mostly poor, and mostly of color. Our government makes it virtually impossible for people from these countries to even visit the US... unless they are very wealthy.

Can we afford to let more people in?

Why not? Statistics show that an influx of new immigrants actually boosts the economy. The conservative Alexis de Tocqueville Institution found that US states with higher immigrant populations have lower rates of unemployment. Besides, the cost of enforcing our strict immigration laws—policing our borders, processing and deporting “illegals,” and processing legal immigrants through our complex bureaucratic system—is immense. We could cut expenses and generate more income by replacing this system with one that allows everyone in, and gives all who want to work a social security number.

But don't they cost us because they don't pay taxes?

Studies show that immigrants—both documented and undocumented—pay \$70-\$90 billion in taxes each year and use less than \$50 billion in services. In California, undocumented immigrants contribute \$30 billion in tax revenue and use just \$18.7 billion in services, according to Washington's Urban Institute. Many undocumented immigrants pay more income tax than they owe because they are afraid to file and claim a refund. Besides, if all immigrants were granted legal work permits, they would be entitled to all the same benefits and rights as everyone else, and they would pay the same taxes as everyone else.

Don't they bring down the wage scale?

It's true that many companies prefer to employ undocumented immigrants because they are easier to exploit. But undocumented immigrants bring down the wage scale because they are undocumented, not because they are immigrants. Most are not aware that US labor laws protect them just as they protect any other worker—and they fear that if they complain about how they are treated, they will be deported. If immigrants were allowed to work here legally, and if all workers were more aware of their rights, it would be harder for employers to push down wages and cut benefits.

If we open the borders, won't we be flooded with newcomers?

Maybe. But the wealthier European countries feared that would happen when the European Union opened its borders—and it didn't. Also, if the borders were open, many immigrants would return more often to their home countries for extended visits. People would stay here only as long as they wanted. The way things are now, undocumented immigrants here are trapped—if they leave, they may have trouble coming back.

What can we do about it? Defend the rights of immigrant workers in the US. Protest your government's support of the violence and repression that make life difficult—sometimes unbearable—in many countries. Support the efforts of unions and grassroots movements to organize for better wages and working conditions both here and abroad. Speak out for an alternative immigration policy that treats all people with dignity and respect.

Acción Urgente: Objetor Encarcelado en Colombia

Cuando lo llamaron el año pasado a presentarse al servicio militar obligatorio en su ciudad natal, Bogotá, Colombia, Luis Gabriel Caldas León (18) le entregó al oficial militar una nota escrita a mano que decía:

«He sido citado para prestar el servicio militar obligatorio. Soy un pacifista no violento que cree que la violencia nunca es solución para los conflictos, por tanto considero que no puedo formar parte de ningún estamento o grupo armado que se base en la razón de la violencia».

Luis Gabriel se ofreció en cambio, a servir su tiempo obligatorio haciendo trabajo ecológico, de acuerdo a una ley de 1993.

Pero el gobierno rechazó su pedido y procesó a Luis Gabriel en una corte marcial como «desertor del Ejército» a pesar de que él nunca estuvo en el ejército.

En junio 1995 Luis Gabriel fue arrestado y encarcelado.

El Colectivo por la Objeción de Conciencia al Servicio Militar Obligatorio (COC) en Bogotá está pidiendo urgentemente el envío de cartas demandando la libertad inmediata de Luis Gabriel y que el gobierno colombiano respete el derecho de ser objetor de conciencia. En su carta incluya que de acuerdo al artículo 18 de la constitución colombiana de 1991: «nadie será obligado a actuar contra su conciencia».

ahora vive en la clandestinidad. Escriba al gobno. para demandar que se respete el derecho a la objeción de conciencia.

Envíe su carta a:
Ernesto Samper Pizano
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Carrera 8, #7-40
Santafé de Bogotá
DC, COLOMBIA
fax: (011) 571-1-286-7434

envíe una copia de su carta o fax al COC:
AA 53024, Bogotá DC COLOMBIA
fax: (011) 571-1-287-3660.

Urgent Action: Draft Resister Jailed in Colombia

When he was called up last year to present himself for obligatory military service in his home city of Bogotá, Colombia, 18-year old Luis Gabriel Caldas León handed the army commander a handwritten note.

"I have been called to serve obligatory military service," read the note. "I am a nonviolent pacifist who believes that violence is never a solution to conflicts; therefore I believe that I cannot form part of any armed group or establishment based on the reason of violence."

Luis Gabriel offered instead to serve his term doing environmental service, allowed under a 1993 law.

But the government rejected his request and court-martialed Luis Gabriel as a deserter—even though he was never in the army.

On June 10, 1995, Luis Gabriel was arrested and thrown in prison.

The Bogotá-based Collective for Conscientious Objection is asking for urgent letters or faxes demanding that Luis Gabriel be released immediately, and that the Colombian government respect the right to conscientious objection. Point out in your letter that according to Article 18 of Colombia's 1991 Constitution, "No one can be obliged to act against his or her conscience."

Send your letter to President Ernesto Samper Pizano, Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8, #7-40, Santafé de Bogotá, DC, COLOMBIA, or fax it to: Fax # (011) 571-1-286-7434.

Send a copy of your letter to the Collective at AA 53024, Bogotá, DC, COLOMBIA, or fax it to: Fax # (011) 571-1-287-3660.

actually hes in hiding now — write, the govt and demand they respect his right to conscientious objection!

We all have to face difficult things in our lives: abuse or neglect by our parents, being forced to submit to humiliation throughout our childhoods, unwanted intimacy, fear, anger, and a lot of mistakes, both our own and those of others. We all have to learn to say NO when we don't want something, or even if we're not quite sure.

I know it goes a lot deeper than that, but in a moment of confusion, you won't be able to dive into psychoanalysis and figure out that you're only looking for attention from men because your dad wasn't there for you when you needed him. Or because you accept sex—or violence—in place of friendship and affection because that's the way you were treated as a child. Or because you don't think you're worthy of being treated with respect, because you never have been. Or because the more you do it, somehow, the less important it will seem that you did it when you didn't want to.

If you say NO, then you can give yourself some space and some time alone to figure it out. If you're really confused, and you can't make up your mind, then at least take a break (going to the bathroom is a good one) and think about it for five minutes. Ask yourself these questions:

1. If s/he hadn't told me first that s/he liked me, or that I was cute, otherwise expressed interest in me... would I have been interested in me... have been interested enough? Would I pursue, and really get to know, this person? To spend time talking and hanging out? Or is it just the feeling of being wanted, and feeling attractive, that I like?

2. Do I really want to have sex with this person right now? Even if I'm sure I like her/him, maybe it would be better to wait until we've talked about our things, and gotten to know each other. Or at least until we've talked about our sexual pasts, so I know what I'm getting myself into. What if I jump into it now and I end up with herpes? Or AIDS?

3. Do I want this person to be part of my life? Do I want the memory of this person, or this particular experience with this person, tattooed indelibly on my brain? Do I want to have shared something with this person that I will never be able to forget? Or am I just assuming that I will be able to forget the whole thing if it doesn't work out? (Hint: you won't be able to.)

It's difficult enough to acknowledge your problems, but it's especially hard to change behavior. We get stuck in the same patterns, or we become paralyzed with fear and shame at the moment when we really need to be strong. One thing that might be useful would be support groups where people could not only talk about all these issues and share their common experiences around sexual abuse, etc., but where they could do workshops to practice responding to situations in the way they WANT to respond. People in the group could come up with several good responses to each of a bunch of different situations, and then everyone could practice within the safe environment of the group. For example: dealing with harassment in public places; dealing with harassment at work; saying NO emphatically to pressure for sex; confronting an adult who abused you, etc...

It's not a question of remaining a "virgin," of protecting the value of your commodity. It's this: do you want your interactions with other human beings to be meaningful?

I have started to become aware over the last year or so just how many women were sexually abused by their fathers. I know personally at least three people who were sexually abused by their fathers. And that's just the ones who can talk about it! I think the percentage of women who have been sexually abused by their fathers is probably at least 10%, and more like 25% if you count sexual abuse by uncles, step-fathers, grandfathers, etc.

On the Donahue show one day they had this guy who had served prison time for molesting children. He used to drive around and pick up young boys he didn't know, take them back to his apartment, and verbally coerce them into sex. He had gone through a very good counseling program while in prison (only because he heard about it several years earlier on the Donahue show and had fought to get into it) that had helped him figure out why he was messed up sexually. He said he still had urges to have sex with children but had learned to control his behavior. He said it was like being an alcoholic: you couldn't be cured, you just had to control yourself and keep working on it constantly.

Everyone in the audience wanted to lynch him. They thought he was the most evil man on earth, that he was

sub-human, a lower species of life. They thought he should be shot, or at the very least kept in prison for the rest of his life.

All these older women stood up and raged

at him. This made no sense to me, since the vast majority of sexual abuse occurs within families, and by virtue of probability, some of these women's husbands or boyfriends are (or were) sexually abusing

their children. And these same women who were telling this man he was scum of the earth, are choosing to ignore their own partner's pattern of abuse.

It's not just a few fucked-up individuals who need to be isolated from society that are causing the abuse. So what do we do about it? The death penalty is not the answer, and neither is life imprisonment.

We need more specialized counseling programs for sexual abusers--after all, most abusers were themselves victims of abuse. But more importantly, we all need to fight for the rights of people who happen to be under 18--and I don't just mean the right to be tried as an adult!

Maybe we could also set up a network of safe-houses for people who are trying to get out of abusive situations, a kind of Underground Railroad for abuse victims.

If you have been abused, or if you just care at all about the rights of people under 18, you can start by joining the National Child Rights Alliance, which is directed entirely by survivors of abuse and neglect (but membership is open to anyone). Everyone under 18 is invited to join for free.

Contact NCRA at PO Box 61125, Durham NC 27705; phone # 919-479-7130.

DID I SEE IT?

MY FRIEND CHERYL'S FATHER'S BIG JOKE IS TO SLAP HER PANTS WHEN SHE WALKS BY AND YESTERDAY HE SLAPPED MY PANTS TOO AND THEN LOOKED AT ME WITH A LOOK I STILL CAN'T STOP SEEING. HIS YELLOW TEETH AND UGLY EYES.



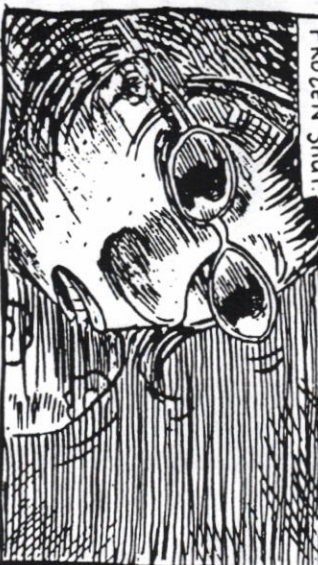
WE WALKED INTO THE FRONT ROOM AND HE DID IT AGAIN. CHERYL'S MOM GOT UP AND WALKED OUT. WAS SHE WHISPERING "SON OF A BITCH"? WE WERE LAYING ON THE FLOOR, WATCHING TV, HER DAD IN A CHAIR BEHIND US. THEN HE SAT ON THE COUCH AND SAID FOR CHERYL TO SIT ON THE COUCH.



I TRIED MENTIONING SOME WORDS ABOUT IT TO CHERYL, LIKE "DOESN'T IT BUG YOU?" AND SHE GAVE ME A LOOK, THE COLDEST LOOK OF SHUT UP. "AT LEAST I HAVE A DAD" SHE SAID. A COMMENT ON ME.



IT FELT WEIRD LAYING THERE ALONE WITH THEM BEHIND ME BUT I ACTED NORMAL UNTIL THE SHOW FINALLY ENDED AND I COULD SAY "I'M GOING." I TURNED AND DID I REALLY SEE IT? HIS HAND NOT SLAPPING BUT DOING A SLOW CIRCLE, AND CHERYL'S EYES STRAIGHT ON THE TV, NOT BLINKING, AND HER MOUTH FROZEN SHUT.



ERNIE POOK'S COMEEK

By Lynda Barry

Is the "sex industry" cool?

SEX is a COMMODITY. Something to be either **HOARDED** (prude, frigid... "what are you going to do, save it for marriage?") or generously **BE-STOWED** upon the world (you slut!). And then, when you tire of these choices, there's the sex industry. Share your sex with the world, but for a price. The perfect compromise: not too stingy, but still not giving it away for nothing.

Someone who has been raped, or sexually abused as a child, or who just never had the self-confidence to refuse sex when she didn't want it, may find a great appeal in the idea of the sex industry. It seems like a way to finally control your own exploitation, the terms of sale of your body, your sexual expression. Rather than feeling helpless and powerless as these things are taken from you, you get to feel strong and in control as you hand them out.

But it's just another way of fooling yourself. In the sex industry, you feel in control but you're really completing the cycle of exploitation and alienation. **Your body is in the public domain.** Your sexual expression becomes routine, meaningless; it's all in a day's work. You feel safe because of this: you have no emotional investment, you cannot be hurt. But you are becoming even more alienated from your body and your sexuality. Maybe you can start to deal with the pain from your past while you are still in this environment, but I don't think you can start to go beyond it until you get out of the sex industry.

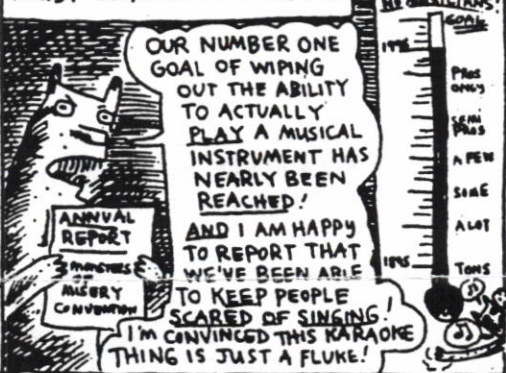
Anytime You're Ready!

by Lynne Barry © 1988. How about a young called "The Corporate Devil"?

There is such a thing as a Monster of Happiness. It's one of our oldest monsters. It lives in the mountains underneath a certain tree inside of you and inside of me. Happy Happy Monster!



He hides in music a lot. You can feel him on the mountain under the tree of your ribs, singing along. Can you see why the other monsters must control all music?



Of course a lot of other monsters hate him! They are always looking for him but he is fast! And he's a good hider!



He hides in so many things that people create independently. In the things the other monsters have convinced us we cannot do!! How scared are you of drawing a picture? Of making something that serves no purpose and will get you nowhere, who do you think you are anyway! You're no artist no writer no singer no dancer no nothing! Now forget all about this stupid comic strip! go watch TV (ha ha you'll never find him there!!)



If you've already fucked up your life like I did, then it's time to face up to it. You can't just pretend it never happened, or that you've changed and that part of your life is over. You have to dig deeper and figure out why you did these things. It's painful, but it's the only way to go.

Hang in there and hold on to your self-respect. There ARE good people out there and if you insist on standing up for yourself and your needs (while at the same time keeping your mind open to new ideas) you will eventually find someone you really want to be involved with, and you can support each other and build trust. In the meantime, cultivate strong friendships. And masturbate. Learn to truly appreciate your body.

TIME TO ORGANIZE

#2

Hi there. I finally got the 2nd issue of my zine out, almost a year after the first one. I'll try to get the next one out sooner. Thanks to everyone who sent me cool stuff and wrote me cool letters. I'm trying to express a little more of my personality in this issue. How am I doing? Write me: Jane G., 80-50 Baxter Ave #125, Elmhurst, NY 11373, USA.

For those who didn't get the last issue, this zine is about organizing so use the ideas, info, leaflets, cartoons, etc. you find here to organize. And to reflect on—because thinking is at least as important as doing.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

page 2 Some of my thoughts on the sex industry, along with an awesome Lynda Barry cartoon that says *everything that needs to be said about why you shouldn't sell out your band, your body, or your life to corporate domination. *Well, maybe not everything...

page 3&4 Some of my thoughts on child sexual abuse, promiscuity and just saying no, along with another Lynda Barry cartoon that makes my skin crawl every time I read it. Join the National Child Rights Alliance now! Don't wait. They're great. If you like to set up benefit shows, do one for them. (NCRA, PO Box 61125, Durham, NC 27705; 919-479-7130)

He's the 1st ever conscientious objector in Colombia—they want to make an example of him.

page 5&6 Urgent action for a draft resister in Colombia. I meant to get this out months ago, but as far as I know this guy is still rotting in jail, so it's still urgent. He is supposed to serve seven months, but if he still refuses to serve in the police force (that's the only option they're giving him right now), he'll have to do another seven months. The only thing that will help get this guy out of prison is international pressure. That means you.

page 7&8 A leaflet I made about immigration. Feel free to add (or replace the zine credit at the bottom with) the name of a local contact organization (but ask the local group first!). Please send me input on this leaflet because I want to make sure it's perfect before I get 10,000 printed up at a union printer on recycled paper. Also, let me know if you want more copies of it and can't afford to make more yourself. Once I get the 10,000 printed up, I will make them available for the cost of shipping.

page 9&10 Where your tax money goes. This is a War Resisters League (WRL) leaflet. If you want more of them to distribute, let me know and I'll pay WRL for them and send them to you if you pay the postage.

page 11 Scary article about the likely cause of "Gulf War Syndrome," which will obviously be affecting Iraqi civilians far more than it is affecting US soldiers—though none of the mainstream media is going to mention that. The article is a little dense, but it has good information.

Soldiers take note, if you haven't already figured it out: your lives are worth shit to the government. All those who refused to go fight in the Gulf and were court-martialed and thrown in the brig have got to be very glad now that they made the choice they did. At least they're not dying of uranium poisoning.

page 12 A couple of great cartoons, a notice about an exhibit available from WRL, the Time to Organize logo (ripped off from the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)), your address and mine, and a stamp. That's it.

correction from last issue:

Sarah from Chicago—who works on welfare issues—told me that mothers on welfare getting section 8 subsidized housing and subsidized childcare must be a New York thing. They don't have that in Chicago. That doesn't change the premise of my rant, which was that our fucked-up public assistance system could save some money and be more effective by subsidizing housing and childcare for all low-income people, whether or not they are on welfare—and whether or not they happen to live in New York.

stuff I left out:

Mumia Abu-Jamal, black journalist on death row. If you want info, contact Equal Justice, PO Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782, phone: 301-699-0042.

Equality Now does urgent actions on women's rights around the globe. Write them at PO Box 20646, Columbus Circle Station, New York, NY 10023.